

Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Frequently Asked Questions

This information provides you with the steps needed to see if you are eligible to collect extended unemployment compensation (EUC) benefits.

What are EUC benefits? EUC benefits are available to certain workers who have exhausted regular unemployment insurance benefits. This is a federal program that extends benefits up to 20 additional weeks with the possibility of a second tier extension up to 13 weeks.

What should I do if I have already exhausted my EUC benefits? There will be a voucher available via the online claims system (Uplink CSS) on Sunday 11/30/08. You can access the online claims system by logging into your account and filing the vouchers at www.in.gov/dwd.

When should I expect my first payment on the new EUC program? If you complete a voucher online on Sunday 11/30/08, the payment should appear on your debit card no later than 12/5/08.

How do I know if I qualify for EUC benefits? The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will evaluate your claim for extended unemployment compensation (EUC) benefits. If you meet the following requirements, you may be eligible for EUC benefits:

- you filed an initial claim for regular unemployment insurance benefits on or after April 30, 2006;
- your most recent state unemployment claim expired on or after May 1, 2007;
- you exhausted your claim for regular state unemployment insurance benefits; and
- you worked 20 weeks in full-time covered employment or earned the equivalent in covered wages prior to your separation from employment.

How do I know if I have exhausted my claim for regular state unemployment insurance benefits? You have exhausted your claim for regular state unemployment insurance benefits if you were paid all regular state unemployment benefits available to you during your benefit period, or your benefit period expired before you were paid all benefits available to you. You can check your Claimant Homepage via DWD's online filing system, Uplink CSS, to determine whether or not any state benefits remain on your claim.

When can I file for EUC benefits?

There are 2 steps to file for EUC benefits:

- 1) File an initial claim for benefits. This can be done anytime on or after November 30, 2008 via DWD's online filing system, CSS, found at www.in.gov/dwd. You must only do this once.
- 2) File weekly vouchers. You must submit a weekly voucher (available online via CSS) each week you are unemployed in order to be paid. Vouchers may be submitted beginning on Sunday for the week ending on the prior Saturday. November 30, 2008 will be the first day you can submit your voucher for extended benefits. This voucher will cover the week of November 23rd – 29th. You must continue submitting vouchers weekly until you return to work, exhaust your extended unemployment benefits, or the program ends on August 29, 2009, whichever is earlier.

How do I know when my state claim expired?

Your state claim expires on your benefit year end (BYE) date. This is 52 weeks from the week in which you filed your claim. Your BYE date is listed on all correspondence you receive from DWD and can also be found on your Claimant Homepage on DWD's online filing system, Uplink CSS, at www.in.gov/dwd.

How do I file for EUC benefits? Your filing process will depend on the status of your most recent claim as follows.

If your claim has not expired (the benefit year end date has not passed), but you have exhausted your entire benefit amount on the claim:

1. Log onto to the online filing system (Uplink CSS) at www.in.gov/dwd (on the upper right side of the web page – "filing for unemployment," then click here to access Uplink Claimant Self Service) or visit your nearest WorkOne office for assistance filing.
2. Set up a user account, if you have not done so already.
3. Click on the link to file a claim for extended unemployment compensation.
4. You can check the status of your claim through your CSS Claimant Homepage starting the day after you file.
5. If there are any issues affecting your eligibility (you are not available and looking for work, you've been fired from a job since you last applied for benefits, etc.), they will be listed on your homepage and a member of the DWD claims processing staff will determine whether or not you are eligible for extended benefits and send you notification. If there are no issues affecting your eligibility, you will be issued a payment on your Indiana debit card.

If your claim has expired (your benefit year end has passed and was on or after May 1, 2007):

1. Log onto to the online filing system (Uplink CSS) at www.in.gov/dwd (on the upper right side of the web page – "filing for unemployment," then click here to access Uplink Claimant Self Service) or visit your nearest WorkOne office for assistance filing.
2. Create a user account, if you have not done so already.
3. Click on the link to file a claim for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
4. If you do not have sufficient wages earned since your last claim for unemployment to set up a new claim. You must file a claim for regular benefits before you can be eligible for extended benefits.
5. If there are any issues affecting your eligibility (you are not available and looking for work, you've been fired from a job since you last applied for benefits, etc.), they will be listed on your homepage and a member of our claims processing staff will determine whether or not you are eligible for extended benefits and send you notification. If there are no issues affecting your eligibility, you will be issued a payment on your Indiana debit card.

***You must re-file for regular UI benefits at the beginning of each new calendar quarter in order to make sure you receive regular UI benefits if you have become eligible. If you are still ineligible for regular UI benefits, you can maintain your eligibility for EUC benefits.**

How do I file my weekly vouchers for EUC benefits? You can file your weekly vouchers for EUC benefits via the online claims system (Uplink CSS) by logging into your account and filing online (or visiting your nearest WorkOne office for assistance with filing). ***You must submit a voucher every week for which you are unemployed.***

How soon will I know the status of my claim for EUC benefits? You can check the status of your EUC claim online at www.in.gov/dwd and logging into your state unemployment insurance account or by calling 1-800-891-6499.

How will I receive my EUC benefits? All benefits are distributed via Indiana's debit card program. Typically, you should receive your funds and Indiana debit card within 10 calendar days, sooner if you currently have an Indiana debit card. If you have an Indiana debit card account, but you are unable to locate your Indiana debit card, please contact the Indiana Debit Card Call Center at 1-888-393-5866 and report your card as lost or stolen. You are eligible for one free card replacement per year. If you have never before received unemployment benefits on an Indiana debit card, you must wait for your first card to be issued to you.

This debit card can be used at any VISA merchant and at your bank to withdraw funds – please see the flyer that arrives with your card for additional options and uses. The State uses a debit card so the funds can be automatically added to your card on a weekly basis for ease of use.

How much can I collect in weekly EUC benefits? If you qualify and have filed the necessary forms on a weekly basis, you will collect the same amount in weekly extended unemployment insurance benefits as you received in regular unemployment insurance benefits. The minimum you can collect is \$50.00 per week and the maximum is \$390.00 per week. The amount of payment is based on your previous earnings. The maximum number of weeks that First Tier EUC benefits will be paid is 20 weeks. The maximum number of weeks that will be paid under the Second Tier EUC benefit is 13 weeks. This is a possibility of a maximum of 33 weeks of EUC benefits (including the first and second tiers).

Are the weekly requirements the same for my Extended Benefit claim as on my regular claim?

Yes, unlike during previous EUC events, your weekly eligibility requirements (availability, work search, etc.) will be exactly the same as during your regular UI benefit period.

I lost my Indiana debit card. Will I be sent a new one if I'm eligible for benefits?

If you have been issued an Indiana debit card in the past, your new benefits will be loaded back onto the original card. If you are applying for EUC and you know that you have misplaced or disposed of your Indiana debit card, please contact the Indiana Debit Card Call Center at 1-888-393-5866 and report your card as lost/stolen. You are eligible for one free replacement card each year. You must request this card because one will not be automatically sent to you. You can request this card before you are deemed eligible for extended benefits.

I can't remember my username and/or password to file my claim online through CSS?

Click the appropriate link for a forgotten username/password. This will lead you through a process that will ask you to answer a couple of identification questions. If you get these questions correct, you will be given the forgotten information.

If you cannot answer these questions correctly or cannot follow the link, please call the DWD Uplink Customer Support Call Center at 1-800-891-6499 (or visit your nearest WorkOne Center where someone will be happy to assist you in resetting your username or password).

I'm a TRA recipient, how will EUC affect me?

If you are a TRA recipient and have a previous regular UI claim meeting the criteria for EUC (exhausted or expired after May 1, 2007), a voucher for EUC benefits for the week ending 11/29/08 will be available on 11/30/08. Federal law requires that you receive EUC instead of TRA. You may go online to Uplink CSS at www.in.gov/dwd to file your voucher for extended unemployment compensation (EUC). The link to file will be available on your CSS Claimant Homepage.

You will still need to re-file for state benefits quarterly.

I'm currently receiving Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), how will EUC affect me?

Federal law requires that if you are currently receiving DUA and would be eligible for EUC, you must receive your benefits through EUC. If you meet the eligibility requirements for EUC based on your last regular UI claim, you will need to apply for EUC in lieu of DUA.